



The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

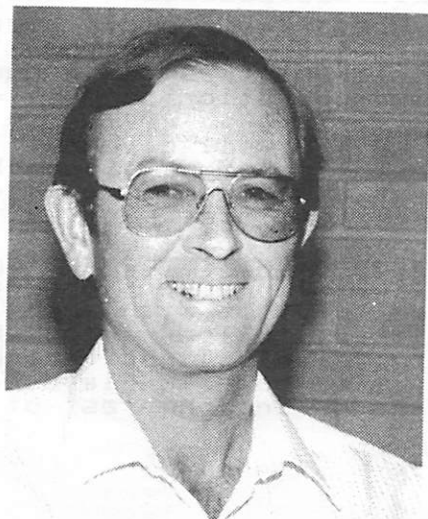
June, 1987 SEA-PAC EDITION Vol. 2 No. 13

SPOTLIGHT ON A HAM BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Mr. Sea-Pac, Al Berg, WB7SIC has been co-chairman of the convention since OTVARC became co-sponsor with the North Coast Repeater Assn. in 1982. OTVARC was first involved the previous year when they agreed to take over Security for the then called Seaside Convention.

Al, along with his son Jon, WB7VWX, then aged 13, joined OTVARC at the club's second organizational meeting in 1978. Al intended to stay in the back of the room and not get too involved. However, he's been President for two years, Field Day Chairman for three years, Newsletter Editor for six years, ARRG chairman for two years and is currently chairman for the 1988 ARRL National Convention to be held in Portland.

Not surprisingly, Al hasn't operated HF for months. His last big event was a DX expedition to Belize in November, 1984. He reminisces that when Mark Nelson, AA6DX called and asked if he wanted to make a trip, he replied "sure I want to make the trip and I want to buy a new Cadillac tomorrow, too".



AL BERG
WB7SIC

After family discussion it was decided that provided the necessary funds came from alternative sources, he could go. So, he worked at other jobs, even having a booth selling leather goods at that year's Reno convention. That, with the sale of equipment won as the second grand prize at Sea-Pac that year raised the necessary \$1,200.

Al enjoys woodworking, camping, photography and archery but most of all ham radio. As he explains it "I'm just not the same person. I've become so people-involved and I've made masses of friends. I'm willing to do so many more things. I can't believe it has all happened. I wanted to sit back and not do much, but I would encourage anyone sitting at the back of the room to raise their hand and get involved. It's a marvelous feeling".

Al has recently changed jobs and after 30 years in the same field, finds it ironic that his past work experience didn't help, but his knowledge with Sea-Pac paid off. Al will now be responsible for bringing you the Home Remodeling Show which attracts 50,000 people and the Childrens Learning Fair this year.

He threatens that this year will be his last as co-chairman of Sea-Pac but offers his assistance in any way and is concerned about keeping it going. As he says he wants to get back to the hamming side of ham radio, particularly learning CW as a novice all over again.

Thanks for making this year's convention and all previous conventions such a success. It's an honor to have you as an OTVARC member.

THE PREZ SEZ BY PAUL, WB6SHR

Welcome to Sea-Pac 1987. This year's convention promises to be one of the best ever. I hope your visit here is fun, enjoyable and rewarding. There are a lot of fun things to do so don't be bashful. Join in and have some fun.

If you are here at Sea-Pac for the first time, don't feel like you are alone. Sea-Pac is becoming a well known ham radio convention and hams come from all over the western United States including Washington, Idaho, California, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Arizona and even British Columbia.

What attracts all these people? For some it is the exhibitor booths and discounted prices on new equipment. For other it is the large number of swap tables. And for the majority, it is the social and technical programs that keep our interest going.

Who puts Sea-Pac together? Sea-Pac is operated by two clubs. The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club and the North Coast Repeater Association do most of the work. A Sea-Pac committee pulls together the resources and people necessary to make it work; it takes a lot of volunteer effort and good leadership to make it happen. We owe a lot to people like Al Berg who spend countless hours of their personal time making sure all the details are taken care of.

Will there be a Sea-Pac next year? Probably not. Next year the ARRL National Convention will be held in Portland and most local club resources will be applied to that program. Sea-Pac will be back in 1989, however.

Thank you for stopping by the OTVARC booth. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and we would be happy to see you at any of our meetings. If you live in the Portland Metropolitan area, we encourage you to join our membership.

CAMPERS CORNER BY TONY, KA7ZDE

We had an ideal weekend at Kah-nee-ta; hot days and cool nights, excellent swimming pool and patio area. Those in the group included Dave, N7DWL and Marion with guests Guy and June who visited on Friday, Marvel, KA7T2T and Roger, KA7RNN with their guests Gene and Sally, Jim, KA7SOQ, Willis, N7DZR and Norma and Bobbi and myself.

Roger was hiking high above the hills of the campsite and I was talking to him on Simplex. The

ranger came over and asked me if I was in communication with the guy up there climbing. I told him I was - "well you better tell him to get down quick, he's in a restricted area and it's infested with rattlesnakes". Needless to say many jokes were made about Roger's rattlesnake hunting.

Next campout will be June 19-21 at Promitory Point on the Clackamas River, a different site than we had previously discussed. There's 37 tent sites, a nice covered area with stoves which we can use for the potluck and plenty of RV space. Also a fishing hole where kids may catch three fish per day and, of course, the Clackamas River if the grownups want to fish or boat.

I'll reserve the usual ten RV sites so let me know, please, if you plan to come out with us. We can assure you of a good time and Bobbi is also planning something special for Fathers Day.

MEMBERS UPGRADE TO HIGHER CLASSES

Congratulations to Bill, KB7ANS who upgraded to Extra Class on May 2. During that same VE test session George, WB7VWK passed his Technician exam, while Will, KE7OC passed Element 4B (written part) of his Extra ticket. Good job guys and good luck to all those taking tests at Seaside!

A note of reminder: new FCC rules allow credit for both code and written test elements, good for up to one year following the exam. Like KE7OC above, that means you can take (and hopefully pass) your written test on one day, then come back for the code later. The new rules provide alot more flexibility in pursuing higher class status. Why not give it a try.

FIELD DAY AND COMMITTEES TO BE COVERED AS JUNE 10 MEETING PROGRAM

With Field Day rapidly approaching, it's time to coordinate all of the club's committees for a successful weekend operation.

Dee, KA7NPN will give a slide presentation of previous FD outings, followed by a discussion of each committee's role.

The program will then be opened up to allow all members and guests a chance to visit with each committee; to learn more about them and to "sign up" for various activities both at Field Day as well as during the rest of the year.

MEMBERS CELEBRATE JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to these members celebrating June birthdays:

Harry McDonald	KA7VML	June	2
Dennis Souza	KA7MDD		3
Jim Bernklau	W7JOI		7
Stan Weinstein	KX7Y		7
Darwin Durr	K7PSD		8
Hanford Van Ness	KE7BB		11
Bill McKinney	WDOGQU		12
George Dover	KA7UCJ		14
Lorna Campbell	KA7RFD		16
Dennis Boyd	KC7BE		17
Ben Bunch	N7BQN		18
Bill Eppick	KB7ANS		19
Jean Thombs	K67X		19
Ron Magnus	WA7GFE		21
Kathleen Roska	KA7ZIH		21
Dick Millager	KA7SPS		22
Bob Orr	KB7CC		23
Ron Troudt	K7TGD		23

FOR SALE

Yaesu FTdx 570 Transceiver, 80 through 10 meters. \$225. Icom 2AT 2 meter handi-talkie with spare battery and cigarette lighter power cord. \$140. Drake 4RA receiver with extra crystals for 1.5 - 2.0 MHz, 10.0 - 10.5 MHz and 28.0 - 28.5 MHz. \$120. Call Bernie, KQ7L, 645-3992.

THE OTVARC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Newsletter Committee of the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Subscriptions are available only with membership.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and are prorated quarterly. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$2.00.

Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge, 3500 S. W. 104 Avenue, starting at 7 pm. A buffet dinner is served at 6:15.

All articles, letters, advertisements and material submitted to the Newsletter are welcome; cutoff date is the 20th of the preceding month. Please send all club mail to:

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 25545, Portland, Oregon 97225-0545.

The opinions, views and recommendations of the Newsletter's contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, its officers or the Newsletter Committee.

Lorna Campbell, KA7RFD Editor
Jeff Freedman, K7JF, Asst. Editor

Membership: 231 Circulation: 228

OTVARC LOSES A GOOD FRIEND

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Lavonne Drake, XYL of Rush, W7RM, following complications from heart surgery on April 30.

Lavonne had been a frequent visitor to OTVARC meetings and area hamfests; always at the side of her husband, our ARRL NW Division Director and club member.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Rush and his family. At their suggestion, remembrances may be directed to the Saint Vincent Hospital Heart Fund.

ANYONE REMEMBER THE BISMARCK?

A few years ago, OTVARC used to put on monthly bunny hunts - hidden operators transmitting periodic messages with the goal of being found somewhere in the local area.

Direction finding (DFing) can be a very useful amateur tool; for finding lost stations, sources of interference and the like.

If nothing more than the pizza party afterwards to compare notes what do you think about reviving this popular activity? Please let your thoughts be known. Newcomers are especially encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Mark, N7CRQ.

HELLO TO MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE AREA

With all of OTVARC's local activities, we tend to "misplace" our members spread throughout the state and country. To all those members, we want you to know you aren't forgotten and we send you a big HELLO!

Don	W6AAQ	Esparto, California
Bonnie	KA7APS	Springfield, Oregon
Bill	WD6ASI	White City, Oregon
Dennis	KE7BE	Yakima, Washington
Skip	KC5BO	Houston, Texas
Steve	N4BOS	Lake Jackson, Texas
Betty	W7CPV	Grants Pass, Oregon
Jon	NL7EN	Kivalina, Alaska
Larry	K7LJ	Cupertino, California
Victor	KA7RKS	Bangor, Maine
Calvin	W7SAN	Mehama, Oregon
David	KA7VJP	Riverside, California
Heru	W3WVV	Ferndale, Maryland
Marge	WA6ZPX	Centerville, Ohio

HEARD AROUND THE CLUB BY LORNA, KA7RFD

We are pleased to report that Jo, KA7MIE, is progressing well after surgery and hopes to be fit enough to attend her granddaughter's graduation at the end of month. Bob, KB7CC, says Jo now welcomes phone calls from her OTVARC pals.

Bob, KA7DYO, is recovering nicely from five-bypass heart surgery. He's still a "maybe" for Field Day - hope you're feeling good enough to come out for an hour or two.

Another "maybe" for Field Day is Don, N7DDK scheduled for hip surgery on June 4. Our thoughts will be with you.

While on the subject of FD Greg, W7AGO, plans to operate from Maui. He's also hoping to visit the National Bureau of Standards in Puunene, Hawaii and will write an article for a future newsletter about his tour of the station.

Other deserters this year include Marty, KD7LA, Jerry, ND7T, John, NB7W and Steve, N4BOS. They'll be operating from Triangulation Point, west of South Saddle Mountain. Good luck, guys!

Congratulations to Martin, N7CYG and Teresa Schmid who were married a few weeks ago. We're a bit late in getting this info in the newsletter. Sorry about that. We understand Teresa is studying for her Novice ticket. Go get 'em kid.

PUBLIC SERVICE BY RANDY, KZ7T

This is the first public service report for 1987. We had a few quick runs on Sundays and I would like to thank Bud, KC7PS and Mike, KE7HS for helping me.

The first big event was the KAO Keg Roll and I would like to thank Bud, KC7PS; Roy, N7DUJ; Ron, KA7SIK; Janet, WB7FJC; Don, W6AES and XYL Betty; Bill, KB7ANS; Lorna, KA7RFD; Roger, KA7RNN; Jeff, KA7AKU; Gary, WB7BBF and me.

The weekend of May 2 there were three events. Help on the the Children's Fair came from Bill, KB7ANS; Elaine; KB7ANT; Dale, W7FBP; Paul, WB7BBG and me. Next was the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Run and thanks go again to Bud, Lorna and Mike along with John, K7SHC and Jim, KB7ADH. Jim was the director of the Doernbecher Race and is also a director for Hood to Coast. Seeing our efforts

at many events over the past couple of years was the determining factor in persuading him to get his ham licence. Finally that weekend was the Tigard clean up with Dave, N7DWL; Roy, N7DUJ and Rick, KA5OLH.

The next event was helping the Girl Scouts out at the Zoo. Jean, KG7X; Fred, KI7J and Bud and I worked on that one.

The last one for this report is the Viking Classic with thanks again to Lorna, Bud, Mike, and me. By the way I think that Jim Schaeffer should wear his runnings tights to one club meeting and I will guarantee you it will brighten up the meeting.

There will be more reports from now on as the rest of the year has many more events.

APRIL FOOL'S CONTEST A BIG HIT

At least 40 stations participated in the first annual OTVARC 10 Meter April Fool's SSB Contest held the evening of April 9.

Previously, the contest was held in the Two Meter "FM Simplex" subband. However, with recent enhanced privileges granted to Novices and Technicians, the move to Ten meters was a natural. A number of "DX" stations were logged; from Vancouver, Washington to Albany, Oregon - showing how durable the band is - even during a sunspot cycle low.

Of the stations logged by the various participants, 13 signed as Novice or Technician; an excellent first-time contest turnout.

Somewhat surprizing, however, the Contest Committee received very few logs from those participants. The following are the scores from those logs received:

NB7W	885 Points
K7JF	559
KA7ZDE	448
KA7KIR/T	312
KE7BB	170
WB7FJC/T	144

Congratulations to John, NB7W who will receive a special plaque at the June meeting as first place winner, as well as Brian, KA7KIR who will receive the first "Golden Mike" trophy as top scoring Novice/Technician class winner.

The next scheduled contest event will be the Rusty Key CW Contest on September 10 in the 15 Meter Novice/Technician CW subband.

MAY BOARD MEETING NOTES

Treasurer Susan, N7EPE indicates there is a balance in the coffers \$1,033.91.

Terry, WB7CHK reported that the receiver Project Nite was a great success, with participants coming from all parts of the tri-county area.

Congratulations to Hanford Van Ness, KE7BB, who has agreed to chair the By Laws committee. Kudos also to Sandie Ballard, KB7AHX who has volunteered to lead the Social Committee. There is a possibility of combining the Emergency Service and Public Service groups into one all-encompassing committee. There was some discussion regarding a new membership promotion committee and/or group to serve as a resource to new members. Consensus that the Recreation/Camping/RV group serves as subcommittee of Social Committee.

Dave, W7LJN will be recognized for his contribution of 2 meter amplifier and UHF equipment, prior to his departure for Seattle.

ARRL SPONSORS BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

You read it here first folks! The ARRL has just announced a year-long series of activities designed to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the US Constitution.

The "We the People" Worked All States (WAS) award will be available for operators contacting stations using a special Bicentennial prefix. Each state will be eligible to put the Bicentennial prefix on the air for one week -- as close as possible to the date of entry into the Union.

The State of Oregon has been allotted the period from February 13-19, 1988. Since OTVARC usually celebrates Oregon's statehood with it's Valentine's Day special event operation, we have registered the club to participate that week.

Stations around the country will be signing with a "200" prefix. K7JF will operate 80 through 10 meter CW and SSB and 2 meter FM as OTVARC's special station using the call K200JF. All club members are welcome to operate and contact the special station that week.

The Bicentennial celebration will kickoff September 17, 1987 (the date the Constitution was approved by state delegates) with two special event stations in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. The activities will last until December 31, 1988.

TELEPHONE (503) 223-2228

KX7Y

STAN WEINSTEIN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

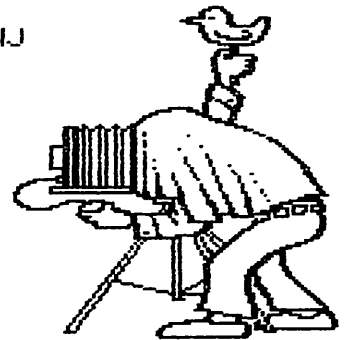
SUITE 310 BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
310 S. W. FOURTH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

WARREN KNIGHT, N7BIJ

EDMUND KEENE

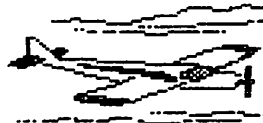
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DX FOR BEGINNERS AND OTHERS
BY GREG, W7AGQ

Last time we talked about the three cardinal rules of DX: listen, listen (and) listen. At this point you may have listened some but were unsure of just what you were hearing.

Call letters or a call sign series are assigned by the International Telecommunications Union. The United States, for instance has all the series "AAA-ALZ, KAA-KZZ, NAA-NZZ and WAA-WZZ." All stations operating under U. S. authority will use call letters from one of these series. Other countries have similar assignments from the alphabet and/or numerals.

Many stations you might hear do not indicate their QTH. In order to determine where they are, you need a handy source; generally hams use the Radio Callbook. This is simply a listing of virtually all the amateur radio licenses in the world. Because there are so many, it takes two books - and they are expensive. Both North American and International Editions set me back \$25.00 EACH. Both have in excess of 1,000 pages. For the beginner or casual listener that's quite an investment; fortunately, there is an easier way.

You can use the ARRL DX List which is available for a buck from the League. Also, many log books and all, even old callbooks can give you sufficient information for all but the newest or most exotic calls. For those unusual, special or contest calls, get ahold of either callbook edition for the last few years or so. Look toward the front of the "Table of Allocation of International Call Sign Series." The only thing you may be missing will be the very latest assignments for newly independent nations. For \$50 saved, you can probably get along without knowing that Brunei is now V8A-V8Z and not the old VS5.

Some countries assign certain letters or numerals to operations from a particular possession or part of their country. In the U. S., if you were not a "7" to operate from the northwest you used to be required to use a "/" (portable) 7." VK6 is Western Australia, VK2 is several thousand miles away in New South Wales (Sydney-area). The Russian system of allocating call letters to particular areas has just been revised. You won't find it in the Table of Allocations, but here it is:

The first letter must be E, R or U. A second letter of A, N, V, W or Z plus the numeral 1,3,4 or 6 indicates European Russia. Those

same first and second letters plus the number 2 indicates Kallingrad. The same letters plus the number 9 or 0 indicates Asiatic Russia. The only exception I know of is the same first two letters plus "1P" which is Franz Josef Land. A first letter of E, R or U plus a second letter will tell you where the station is. For example:

UC	.....	White Russia
UD	.....	Azerbaijan
UF	.....	Georgia
UG	.....	Armenia
UH	.....	Turkmen
UI	.....	Uzbek
UJ	.....	Tadzhik
UL	.....	Kazakh
UM	.....	Kirghiz
UO	.....	Moldavia
UP	.....	Lithuania
UQ	.....	Latvia
UR	.....	Estonia
UB, UT, UY	.....	Ukraine
4K1	.....	Soviet Antarctic

If you think that's confusing, understand that they used to have a different system based on letters and numerals that had suffered piecemeal changes over the years.

One more brief bit of information. Have you ever been upset to hear, say a 4X4 and think you were hearing the mideast, only to then copy "portable W6." As I understand the new international suggestion or regulation, the "portable W6" would come first followed by the operator's call sign. Thus, the above example could be "W6/4X4AA." This will at least tell us right off where the station is operating.

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

Our aardvark mascot ("the little man") designed by Carl, KA7GHR first appeared on our Newsletter banner.

Stan, W7NI presented a program on Field Day contesting, complete with live QRM demonstration.

New members welcomed: George Gale, WB7PPY (now KD7GJ), Jerold Aaronson, WA7UQA, Sherrill Smith, KA7KNG and Art Pedersen, KA7LCS. Total membership stood at 191.

Marty, KA7CTP (now KD7LA) led a group of OTVARC members in helping out with the Portland State Viking Run. That same day, another group provided communications for the Epilepsy Foundation.

Dave, W7LJN won the Clark County bunny hunt.

The 1982 Seaside Ham Convention was declared a rousing success.

FIELD DAY 1987 BY DEE, KA7NPN

The 1987 Field Day site is located adjacent to the main overnite camp site on the East end of Champeog State Park. A paved loop road enters the core area of the group site and a path on the west end leads to the cook shack and facilities.

There are several options available for campers at Champeog. If you attend for day use only the charge is \$1.00 per car at the entrance gate, good for all day.

For overnite campers in the group area, the charge is \$2.50 per night, collected by OTVARC - who will then pay the Park Ranger. There is room for about 35 rigs in the open areas which have no hookups. There is also plenty of space for tents. If we have additional needs, there is an adjacent overflow area at a slightly higher fee.

Those who would like full hookups, the regular camp area charges \$8.00 per night - go early. This area is adjacent to the group area.

Setup starts at 12:00 Noon Friday, operation starts 12:00 Noon Saturday and teardown is 12:00 Noon Sunday. Whatever your selection is for Field Day sites or location - joy and have a good time!

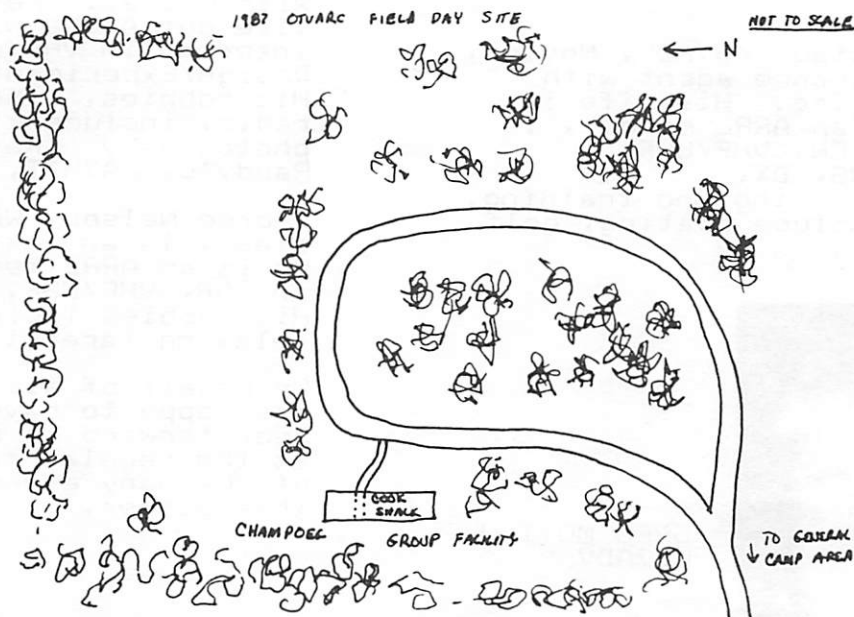
Here is some of the scenery around our Field Day Site.



INSIDE THE SPACIOUS COOK SHACK



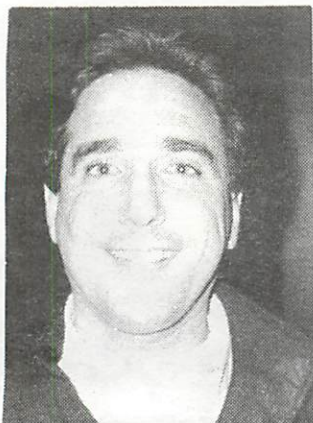
LOOKING TOWARD THE OPERATING AREA



NEW MEMBERS CORNER
BY KATHRYN, KA7UMB

Welcome to our new members who include:

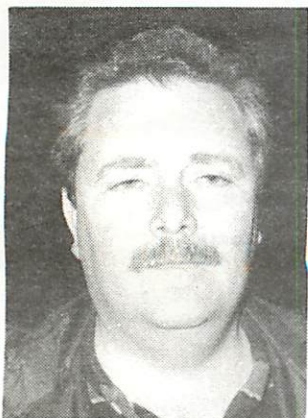
Ken Hart, N7JAS, Technician class license, is a telecommunications engineer with Pacific Northwest Bell. He and his wife, Judy, are Beaverton residents. Ken's interests include Packet, SSTV, VHF/UHF, Design/Experimenting and training. He also listed photography as a hobby.



KEN HART
N7JAS

Pamela Allyn, KA7ZVZ, Novice class license. Pamela is a delivery driver for UPS and is interested in DX. Her hobbies include gardening, travel and foreign language study. As she is a newly licensed ham, Pamela hasn't yet obtained her "radio of choice". We'll be happy to help out!

Gregory C. Mottau, KB7ADV, Novice, is a life insurance agent with Mottau & Co., Inc. His wife is Sandi. Greg, an ARRL member, is interested in CW, VHF/UHF, Satellite, MARS, DX, Design/Experimenting and training. His hobbies include boating, golf and racketball.



GREG MOTTAU
KB7ADV

Grattan J. English, KA6HGY/7, another Novice, is a retiree married to Anne. He is interested in SSB, CW and antennas. His hobbies include photography, printing and music. Hey, editors, he is also interested in being on the newsletter committee.

Welcome also to Deborah B. Smith, KA2JPT, Novice licensee. She is a teller at the Hillsboro branch of Oregon Bank. Her interests include CW, training and building. Deborah is an OMSI volunteer "explainer" and a Dr. Who fan - maybe she can explain Dr. Who to me!



DEBORAH SMITH
KA2JPT

Ray Franco, KB7AGG, Technician class license, is a lab technician with Unocal. He and spouse Judy live out Aloha way. Ray expresses interest in VHF/UHF, DX, Design/Experimenting and training. His hobbies, other than 2-meter radio, include kids baseball and photography. Ray was a member of Randy's, KA7HJT, Novice class.

George Nelson, WB7VWK, Technician class, is an installer with AT&T. He is an ARRL member with interests in SSB, VHF/UHF, computers, etc. His hobbies include boating and relaxing (aren't they the same?).

On behalf of all OTVARC members, we are happy to have you on board. We look forward to seeing you either at the regular meetings or at one of the many events scheduled for this summer.

STANLEY HAMM ON TOWERS-PART VI BY STAN, W7NI

Last time I mentioned how major tower companies are reluctant to provide much data to do-it-yourself tower installers. And the reason, you will recall, was that in the event of a failure in the system, if someone gets hurt, there is almost always a lawsuit. The tower manufacturer is bound to be named in the suit and lots of times have to pay damages for ridiculous reasons. I can't honestly say that the following story is absolutely true, but what I know about the results of some lawsuits makes me tend to believe it.

It seems the job was to remove a tower on the roof of a building. It was about 70 feet high with three sets of guy wires. The antennas had already been removed. The inexperienced climber reached the lowest set of guy wires first and removed them. When he reached the next set of guy wires and removed them, the tower was very wobbly but remained standing.

It was at the top when he removed one of those guy wires that the tower finally toppled to the ground. The climber was seriously injured when he struck his head on impact. The injury was permanent and the man became somewhat of a vegetable. (There are those of us who thought he must have been a vegetable before he went up the tower in the first place.)

In the lawsuit that followed, the man's poor grieving wife hired an attorney who took the position that the tower company had failed to provide specific instructions on how to dismantle the tower and therefore was negligent and caused the accident. Poor grieving wife vs. multimillion dollar tower company...who do you think won? On advice of their attorney, the company settled out of court for a huge sum of money rather than lose in court.

The cards are really stacked against a large company in accident cases such as this. There seems to be less liability in not providing information. I don't think we can look to the tower companies for much help in the foreseeable future.

Tower bases is another good subject to discuss. The requirements are quite different for guyed and unguyed towers although I've never seen this clearly spelled out in commercial tower literature. In the unguyed case, the base is all that holds it up unless it is bracketed to a building. We'll discuss brackets later.

Anyway, Rohn supplies recommendations and dimensions for several bases at no charge. Many of them use steel reinforcing bars and several yards of concrete. For a guyed tower, the base serves two basic purposes: 1. To keep the bottom of the tower from moving north, south, east or west. 2. To keep the tower from sinking down into the ground.

For most ham towers up to 100 feet or so, a base which extends three feet below the surface is adequate to keep the tower from moving around. To keep it from sinking it should have an area of two or three square feet. A hole two feet in diameter and three feet deep should be ample. Most of the space in the hole can be filled with softball-sized rocks with some concrete fill in the spaces. Two or three bags of hardware store ready-mix should do it.

There are several different steel tower bases available on the market. I prefer the very simple short base section which is very inexpensive and is set directly in the concrete when it is poured. There are hinge base sections which cost three times as much money and are generally exercised once...at initial installation.

There are also flat bases which are supposed to bolt down to a flat concrete surface. The problem here is that much more skill in working with concrete is required. "J" bolts must be positioned just right in the concrete and the surface must be flat and truly level. Compare this to simply attaching a tower base section to the first section of tower and standing this stubby tower vertically in the freshly dug hole. It will be temporarily guyed with light "clothesline" rope and checked for straight up and down with a carpenter's level. Concrete and rocks will be placed around the base section. Anybody can do it!

MAN IN MOTION COMPLETES JOURNEY

Rick Hansen, a paraplegic from Vancouver, B. C. has just completed a 25,000 mile around-the-world wheelchair trip; including visits to 34 countries on four continents.

OTVARC members will recall assisting Rick with communications from Longview to Roseburg about 24 months ago. During the trip, Rick collected nearly eight million dollars for spinal cord research.

Congratulations to Rick and the OTVARC crew who helped with the success of this project.

ADVENTURES INTO PACKET - PART III BY VAN, KE7BB AND JIM, AE7W

By now Van had had a couple of Packet QSOs and was feeling smug! Jim's equipment arrived and was wired in; he now used Van the "expert" as the sympathetic TNC for a first QSO on 2-meters. Jim was first to get the TNC hooked up to the HF rig. We ran a couple of preliminary checks on the air to be sure that all was OK. Van could only listen, as all of the wiring had not been completed to his HF rig.

Jim soon found out that using the RTTY mode of the HF rig wasn't having good results, so he used the mike connector and audio signals from the TNC. With this combination and tuning the rig to one of the 20 meter Packet frequencies, 14,103.5 KHz and typed: "C WH6BFT" (only the C in connect needs to be entered). >>>CONNECTED WH6BFT Good Afternoon from Maui" came back. Another "new" frontier conquered (?) Since then we have had numerous contacts.

Now for a couple of rhetorical questions. What good is Packet and are there any real advantages to it? From the standpoint of the newly converted we feel qualified to offer a few observations. However, these are tentative and subject to change as our experience widens and as Packet radio itself grows and expands.

For serious or casual rag-chewing, Packet will never come up to SSB or 2 meter voice FM. It is too slow; it requires the user to pay too much attention to his output device, namely the terminal screen. Even greater attention will have to be given the terminal keyboard. This will be painfully clear to all of us who are lousy typists! Also with the spoken word extra nuances or emphasis can be expressed by voice that can never be approximated with the written word. In principle, it is not too different from CW, although the technique is different. (I imagine "dyed-in-the-wool" CW operators would blanch at such an idea.)

Another aspect which has made itself very clear is that Packet requires that the communication channel be in good shape. That is conditions must be good. This makes a bit of sense when you think of the amount of information exchanged at 1200 baud. The linear has been a big help on HF. CW still has its place as the mode that will make it through when the going gets rough.

The good news is, however, for information transfer that one wishes to keep for some period of time, Packet offers the best

possible choice for the radio amateur this side of the registered U.S. Mail! This would include contents of Packet bulletin boards, computer programs written in some source code, e.g. BASIC or PASCAL or anything else that is out there up-for-grabs.

One of the big uses, perhaps more in the future as Packet radio grows among the amateur population, will be traffic handling. Permanent records both typed and on magnetic disks will be available for as long as necessary for confirmation as what was sent, when, station of origin and relays. In emergencies where large volumes of health and welfare traffic exist, this feature could be very useful.

This column and the previous columns of this series were written using the text editors on the authors' computers and then edited versions were sent back and forth via Packet radio. This appears to be Packet's greatest advantage, the sending of text where an accurate copy at the other end is necessary.

In any event, Packet radio is an interesting mode of communication to experience and experiment with. Its full potential lies in the future. Right now there are plenty of amateurs developing new uses, better operating procedures and best of all some sort of frequency assignment conventions for use on the high frequency bands where it is sorely needed.

This finishes our series on our adventures in getting started in Packet radio. There is still a lot to learn in this new area of amateur radio. We will continue to try different features. We would like to take this opportunity to invite any other hams who are interested and would like to try one of these features, to think of us as a source of encouragement and receivers of information. Also we invite any of you who have questions to send them either to us or the editors and we will try our hardest to get an answer for you and pass it on in a future column.

LOCAL TEN METER NET RELOCATES

In response to the overwhelming success of new activity in the 10 meter Novice/Technician SSB subband, the City of Roses Chapter of Ten-X International has moved their net frequency to 28.450 MHz. The group has introduced a new Monday evening session at 7:30 pm, in addition to its Saturday morning net at 9:00 am. For more details on the Ten-X group contact Alan, K07B.

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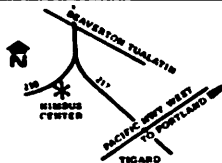


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